

HONORING REVEREND FRED SHUTTLESWORTH

• Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I honor Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, who is a key leader in the civil rights movement and continues to be a guiding light in his community. I am honored that Reverend Shuttlesworth is visiting Missouri on April 29, and I want to commemorate his visit by briefly sharing some of his accomplishments.

Reverend Shuttlesworth grew up in Birmingham, AL, and graduated from Alabama State University in 1951. After graduating, he continued to do graduate work at Alabama State and then received seminary training at Cedar Grove Academy and Selma University. His involvement in civil rights has been grounded in his belief that "a man should not be judged by the color of his skin any more than he is judged by the color of his eyes."

In 1953, at the age of 30, Reverend Shuttlesworth became pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church in Birmingham, during the period of time when the city earned the nickname "Bombingham" for the black homes that were bombed by white supremacists. In May 1956, Reverend Shuttlesworth helped lead a group of ministers to establish the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights, in response to the NAACP being outlawed in Alabama.

Reverend Shuttlesworth, on many occasions, nearly became a martyr of the Civil Rights Movement. On Christmas Day 1956, as Reverend Shuttlesworth prepared to lead protests against the segregation of Birmingham's buses, someone threw a bomb under his bed in the parsonage of his church, where he was talking to a visiting deacon. Miraculously, he was unharmed.

Undeterred, in 1957 Reverend Shuttlesworth joined with Dr. Martin Luther King, Reverend Ralph David Abernathy and Bayard Rustin to form the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which was firmly committed to using nonviolence to advocate for Civil Rights despite the violence that was being committed against its members. He would later help to organize sit-ins against segregated lunch counters and was a key leader of the mass protests and demonstrations in Birmingham during the spring of 1963. During those tumultuous times, Reverend Shuttlesworth was also assaulted by police dogs, knocked unconscious by a fire hose, and jailed more than 35 times.

Reverend Shuttlesworth moved to Cincinnati, where he founded the Greater New Light Baptist Church in 1966, and today he continues to serve as Pastor. In 1988, Reverend Shuttlesworth established the Shuttlesworth Housing Foundation to help needy families access capital for down payments for the purchase of homes. His efforts have helped hundreds of low-income families in the Cincinnati area to become homeowners.

These are just a portion of the good works that this outstanding servant of God has done to help make our Nation more just. I commend Reverend Shuttlesworth for his outstanding contributions to the cause of civil rights for all Americans. I am honored to share his story with my colleagues, and I wish him and his family all the best for the future.●

STATE REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES W. CAPPS, JR.

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to bring to the Senate's attention the distinguished career of Charles W. Capps, Jr., who has served with distinction and honor as a member of the Mississippi State House of Representatives from Bolivar County since 1971.

My friend, Charlie Capps has announced that he will retire from the legislature in June. As a member of the House of Representatives, Charlie Capps has earned the respect of eight governors, the members of the Mississippi Congressional Delegation, and all who have called upon him for advice and assistance over the past three decades.

Charlie Capps is well known throughout our State for his contributions to higher education, highways, wildlife conservation, job development, and job training. He made special efforts to improve the quality of life in the Mississippi Delta.

He has held many positions of responsibility including service as Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations from 1988 to 2003. During those years, the State has experienced unprecedented economic growth. Today, workforce training centers, mental health facilities, university libraries, recreational lakes, and distance learning centers are part of the legacy of this great Mississippian.

I congratulate Charlie Capps for his distinguished career of public service and for his indelible contribution to our State.●

TRIBUTE TO DONNIE R. WHEELER

• Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to commend Mr. Donnie R. Wheeler for becoming the first president of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies—NACWA—formerly the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies, AMSA. Mr. Wheeler currently serves as the General Manager of the Hampton Roads Sanitation District—HRSD—Virginia Beach, VA. He is regarded by his peers as an exceptional leader, dedicated to protecting the environment and health of Virginia and the Nation.

Mr. Wheeler is a graduate of Virginia Tech and for 7 years was employed by the Virginia State Water Control Board before joining HRSD in 1974. HRSD, a nationally recognized regional wastewater treatment utility, serves 17 cities and counties covering 3100 square miles of southeast Virginia. Under his

management, HRSD has received numerous awards from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and is recognized as a state innovator for such initiatives as Virginia's first municipal water reuse project.

Under his leadership, I trust that NACWA will promote responsible national policies to advance clean water and a healthy environment. Mr. Wheeler, is a founder of the Virginia Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies—VAMWA—and served as its president for 6 years. In his long career, Mr. Wheeler has earned the respect of his colleagues at all levels of government and his achievements have earned him awards from the Virginia Water Environment Association—VWEA—and Environment Virginia. Mr. Wheeler also has served as an adjunct professor of Environmental Engineering at Old Dominion University.

In the true sense of the word and by his many achievements in a long and distinguished professional career, Mr. Wheeler is an "environmentalist" who will now proudly serve in a new leadership role the industry in which he has worked for so many years. It is with pleasure that I congratulate and commend Mr. Wheeler on being elected the first president of NACWA.●

COWBOY VIGIL

• Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I today honor a great American, a great Coloradan, and a great Puebloan.

Alcario Vigil was born and raised in the San Luis Valley in Colorado and on April 1st turned 100 years old. His life has been rich with accomplishments and extraordinary devotion to his family, his friends, and his community.

Known as "Cowboy," Alcario Vigil grew up in Lobatos, CO, just down the road from the Salazar family ranch in the San Luis Valley. Like most of his neighbors, he was brought up in a poor family and eventually took over responsibility for his parents' ranch with his wife Sophia. Together, the Vigil family survived the hardships of the Great Depression and raised eight children on the Lobatos family ranch, where they prospered and strengthened Colorado and this country.

Throughout his life, Alcario has been respected as an outstanding community servant, a devoted husband, and a loving father. He has a remarkable record serving as a Penitente for more than 70 years. He has passed those values to his descendants, some of whom are now seventh-generation Coloradans.

Although "Cowboy" lost his devoted wife Sofia in 1994, and his son Jose just 2 years ago, Alcario remains strong and healthy in his Pueblo home. Even at 100 years, he works the ranch's irrigation ditches in the summer months and enjoys visits from his family and friends.

The Pueblo County Commission recently declared April 1, 2005, to be "Alcario (Cowboy) Vigil Day." Given